

(1) Extension of Dependent Coverage to Age 26

In recognition of young adults' need for health care coverage, CalPERS launched a massive communication effort to educate and inform employers and members of the extended dependent coverage benefit. We developed special enrollment teams, published communication materials, posted information on our website, and issued press releases highlighting this new health care reform provision.

Our efforts successfully resulted in more than 27,000 young adults being added to their parents' health plans effective January 1, 2011. Best of all, adding them to our program resulted in a 2011 health insurance premium increase of less than 1 percent. Families can now rest easier in these uncertain economic times knowing their dependents, regardless of marital status, can be covered up to age 26.

(2) Removal of Lifetime Limits

Most CalPERS health insurance plans have never included lifetime limits on the dollar value of benefits. Further, we proactively monitored our members who were enrolled in the few health plans that did include lifetime limits, so we could work with them to change plans when they approached these limits.

As a result of health care reform, CalPERS has removed lifetime limits from all our plans that had included them, and now our members enjoy more health plan options and less financial risk.

(3) Early Retiree Reinsurance Program (ERRP)

For years, CalPERS health plans have included wellness and disease management programs that promote prevention and manage chronic conditions. These programs, now required of ERRP participants, mitigate the on-going fiscal impact of caring for an older population. It's encouraging that these programs can reduce costs.

Notwithstanding this success, approximately 24 percent of our non-Medicare medical and pharmaceutical costs are associated with early retiree health liability. Recognizing this, the Affordable Care Act included much needed provisions for relief from these costs. CalPERS 2010 health premium rates reflected the lowest increase in 14 years.

In anticipation of the Department of Health and Human Services certifying our ERRP application, CalPERS proactively negotiated 2011 health plan contracts that reduced premium increases by more than 3 percent for our non-Medicare plans. We estimate ERRP will provide premium savings of approximately \$200 million based on reimbursement related to more than 115,000 early retirees and their spouses, surviving spouses, and dependents.

We thank you for expeditiously implementing important health care reform provisions and we are committed to being a collaborative partner in ensuring the smooth and successful implementation in the months and years ahead.

If you have any questions regarding our program, please contact me.

Sincerely,

ANNE STAUSBOLL,
Chief Executive Officer.

REQUIRING REPORTS ON MANAGEMENT OF ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

SPEECH OF

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 3860, important legislation to ensure proper oversight of Arlington National Cemetery. I'm proud to have sponsored companion legislation to this bill in the House to see that we fulfill our oversight duties and properly honor our fallen heroes.

Arlington National Cemetery is the final resting place for Presidents, Senators, Representatives, Supreme Court Justices, Generals, Admirals and the countless soldiers, known and unknown, who've died in defense of freedom. It is home to memorials for Iowa heroes like the five Sullivan brothers who were lost at sea in 1942 with the sinking of the USS *Juneau*, but who are honored with tombstones among all of their fallen brothers. Arlington National Cemetery is a national institution that symbolizes the service and sacrifice by our citizens that makes the United States great, but most recently, it's been a sign of government incompetence.

The recent scandal of unmarked and inappropriately marked gravesites is an indignity to the Americans memorialized there, but it is also a stain on America. To date, Arlington Cemetery has spent over \$5 million to computerize records to determine who is buried where, with nothing to show for it but continued problems in gravesite identification. The misuse of these funds disrespects our honored dead and is a breach in the trust of the American people.

As the son of a World War II veteran, I have the deepest respect for our Nation's veterans and I want nothing but the best treatment for them in life and in death. We owe them more than they've been given. I had the honor of attending the burial service of Specialist Ross McGinnis of Knox, PA at Arlington Cemetery as one of my first acts in Congress. Specialist McGinnis was killed in action near Adhamiyah, Iraq on December 4, 2006 when he threw himself on top of a grenade thrown into his HMMWV, saving the lives of at least four other soldiers, including one of my constituents. For his actions that day, Spc. McGinnis was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

My bill, and the bill we passed, asks for nothing more than the respect that our distinguished veterans like Spc. McGinnis deserve. I commend my colleagues for their support on this matter.

HONORING VETERAN NEWSPAPER JOURNALIST TYLER WHITLEY FOR 50 YEARS OF EXCEPTIONAL WORK AT RICHMOND, VIRGINIA-AREA NEWSPAPERS

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor veteran Richmond Times-

Dispatch journalist Tyler Whitley. Mr. Whitley has been a newspaper reporter in Richmond, Virginia, for the last 50 years. He has spent 40 of those years covering the Virginia General Assembly, including the 15 years that I served there.

Mr. Whitley, a Virginia native, is a graduate of Hampden-Sydney College in Hampden-Sydney, Virginia. He started his career in 1960 as an obituary writer at the Richmond News Leader. He later became business editor at the News Leader. In 1992, he joined the Times-Dispatch when the News Leader and the Times-Dispatch merged into a single morning newspaper. He has covered nine governors, fourteen national political conventions, and four redistrictings. He has also traveled to ten countries on assignment.

Mr. Whitley is well-respected by journalists and politicians in Virginia. He is affectionately referred to as the dean of the Virginia capitol press corps. Last week, several journalists and editors, Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell, and former Virginia Governors James Gilmore, L. Douglas Wilder, Gerald Baliles and Linwood Hilton gathered to honor Mr. Whitley. The presence of these Governors at Mr. Whitley's 50th anniversary celebration is a testament to the admirable professional legacy he has built in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

"If it's true that reporters write the first draft of history, then Tyler has written a lot of history," former Governor Baliles told the Washington Post.

Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor Tyler Whitley for 50 years of exceptional journalism.

HONORING MARY WILLIAMS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Mary Williams upon her retirement as the Mariposa County Community Services Director.

Mrs. Williams began her career with Mariposa County on September 1, 1988 as Extra-Help Senior Services Information and Referral Specialist. She was hired full-time on September 1, 1989, as Assistant Veterans' Services Officer. Over the years, Mrs. Williams was reclassified a number of times, first as a Veteran/Senior Services Assistant in 1990, then as Community Services Deputy Director on October 1, 1993. On August 3, 1998, Mrs. Williams was appointed Community Services Director.

Mrs. Williams worked tirelessly for the citizens of Mariposa County. Among the many projects she was involved in, Mrs. Williams provided senior services, senior nutrition, transit, outreach and support for seniors, education seminars and special events of help and interest to seniors; arranged for the first restaurant meal program for seniors; was responsible for overseeing the scheduling and implementing of activities and programs for seniors such as the annual Senior Exposition, the Senior Prom and Thanksgiving dinner; organized a wide variety of fundraisers; and overseeing the Veterans' Services which provides assistance to Veterans, their dependents, survivors and the general public in obtaining benefits from Federal, State, and local